

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A patient lifter comprising:

a substantially planar patient support for ~~support~~ supporting a patient having a top surface, a bottom surface, a first side edge, a second side edge, a top edge and a bottom edge, the distance between the top and bottom edges defining a first width,

a support frame for supporting said ~~patient~~ patient support, said support frame attached to said first side edge and comprising at least one post and a cross member,

a pair of bases extending outwardly from said support frame and engaging the ground, said pair of bases comprising a first base having a first end attached to said support frame and a second end spaced from said support frame and a second base having a first end attached to said support base and a second end spaced from said support frame,

wherein said pair of bases have a first position with said first and second bases extending from said support frame toward said second side edge, said second ends of said first and second base spaced from each other by a second width smaller than said first width and a second position wherein said second ends of said first and second base spaced from each other by a third width greater than said first width.

2. (Original) The patient lifter of claim 1, wherein said support frame comprises a pair of posts, said cross member extending between said pair of posts.

3. (Original) The patient lifter of claim 1, wherein said first base and said second base are parallel in the first position.

4. (Currently amended) The patient lifter of claim 1, wherein said first and second ~~base~~ bases are pivotally connected to said support frame.

5. (Currently amended) The patient lifter of claim 1, wherein said first and second ~~base~~ bases are rigidly connected to said support frame.

6. (Original) The patient lifter of claim 1, further comprising a railing extending upwardly from said second side edge, at least one L-shaped arm having one end connected to said railing and a second end pivotally connected to the bottom surface of the support surface.

7. (Original) The patient lifter of claim 6, wherein said at least one L-shaped arm includes a first section and a second section, said first section and said second section pivotally connected together.

8. (Original) The patient lifter of claim 6, wherein there are two l-shaped arms.

9. (Currently amended) A patient lifter comprising:

a patient support for ~~support~~ supporting a patient having a top surface, a bottom surface, a first side edge, a second side edge, a top edge and a bottom edge, the distance between the top and bottom edges defining a first width,

a support frame for supporting said patient support, said support frame attached to said first side edge and comprising at least one post and a cross member,

a railing extending upwardly from said second side edge,
and

at least one L-shaped arm having one end connected to said railing and a second end pivotally connected to the bottom surface of the support surface.

10. (Currently amended) The patient lifter of claim ~~6~~ 9, wherein said at least one L-shaped arm includes a first section and a second section, said first section and said second section pivotally connected together.

11. (Currently amended) The patient lifter of claim ~~6~~ 9, wherein there are two L-shaped arms.

12. (New) The patient lifter of claim 1, wherein the patient support has a first position when said pair of bases are in their first position and a second position when said pair of bases are in their second position, said patient support second position being lower than said patient support first position.